OR, A

Horrible Plot and Wicked Contrivance

AGAINST

Poor Honeſt People of this Nation.

In a Comical

# DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

A Pawn-Broker, A Tally-Man, A Bum-Bailiff, A Town-Miſs,
A Keeping-Fool. A Vintner's-Drawer. And a Sham-Devil.

At an Eminent Tavern in *Cheapſide*.

Setting forth all their Roguiſh Intrigues; with a Word or Two of Advice how to avoid them.

Written by a Well-wiſher to his Country.

*LONDON*:

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## *The Miſery of Iniquity diſcover'd*, &c.

*Pawn-Broker.* WELL met old Friend Tally —What ſhall we crack a Pint together; I ſee you have been cloſe upon the Dun this Morning: Pray how goes Matters abroad, doſt thou Thrive upon it Man, for I ſee you look fat and chuffy.

*Tally-Man.* Thrive upon it quotha — Why Brother Pawn, did you ever know any of our profeſſion miſcarry, — as long as there are Gudgeons to nible at the Baits we lay for 'em, we can never want Fiſh to Fry. — But this Place is too open to talk of our affairs, ſee the Oyſter-woman begins to liſten, and if ſhe once Smoak us we both loſe a Cuſtomer by our prattling.

*Pawn-Broker,* Well thought on, In in Man, — here Drawer, ſhow a private Room, our buſineſs requires it, though you ſee we have brought no Furbelow Sinner along with us, to make a ruſling againſt the wainſcot, the Backs of thy Maſters Chairs ſhall not be looſned by us — Ha boy ——

*Drawer.* Gentlemen, you are pleaſed to be merry, — but here is a Room the privateſt in the whole Houſe, where many a Loving Couple have Danced.

*Tally-Man.*

*Tally-Man.* Like enough ſo, — but no more of your chatter, fetch us a Pint of the beſt Barcelona.

*Drawer.* You ſhall Sir, — here is a Glaſs of the beſt in Chriſtendom.

*Tally-Man.* No more I ſay, but leave it to try al Boy —

*Drawer.* Your Servant, Servant, Gentlemen.

*Pawn-Broker.* Come a Bumper to your Brother Fat, and Fat we will be though others pine and grow lean for't.

*Tally-Man.* Ay, ay, we will ſo, tho' the Devil ſtood at the Door, — you ſee I pledge you heartily. — Now let the Glaſs reſt a while, and let us talk of buſineſs to the purpoſe, be free and plain with each other, for all we ſhall ſay here, will be under the Roſe, and no Body elſe can be the wiſer for't.

*Pawn-Broker.* Then to be plain, only barring plain Dealing, for that is an Enemy to our profeſſion. I am true *Yorkſhire* Breed, my Father was an Oſtler, and begot me on a Bundle of Litter under the Manger, upon Doll the Dairy Maid, in a ſharp Froſty Night, as I was told, which whetted my Wits and made me ſharp at Invention, tho' I never heard they were marry'd, for I was left to the Pariſh in my Infancy, but at the Years of Ten I ſoon gave them the ſlip, and came for thriving *London*, with a Crew of Gypſies, and Tricks and Cheats I ſoon

learned, but I ſhifted for other buſineſs.—

*Tally-Man.* A very good beginning, come here's to ye, but what was that buſineſs I pray?

*Pawn.* Why truly I accidentally fell in with a *Yorkſhire* Taylor, who was an Arts-Maſter at his Profeſſion. He taught me to filch and play the Devil and all; we livd upon Cabbage, and had ſtore of Butter and good Liquor to it on free-coſt, till I put a trick upon him.

*Tally.* Cou'd you put a Trick upon a *Yorkſhire* Taylor? That was much indeed.

*Pawn.* I did, but it was in a way that was out of his Element, my Fingers being nimble at Filching in the Dusk of the Evening, I nimbly convey'd a Silver Cup off a Goldſmiths Counter; this I carried to my Maſter, who joyfully received it, and praiſed my Ingenuity, and was ſo encourag'd as to go along with me in hopes of better Booty; and by the way I intreated him to run, to try how his Legs wou'd bear him out if we were put to our Shifts, he did ſo, and I told him that Pace wou'd carry it; then coming to the ſame Shop I bid him ſneak behind, and only peep whilſt I went in; he did ſo, and I very bluntly ask'd the Man if he did not loſe a Cup at ſuch a time, ay Boy, cry'd he, canſt thou tell me how to come by it again? Yes Sir, ſaid I, that Man has it, pointing to my Maſter, who thereupon took to his Heels, and the Goldſmith after him; but my Maſter was too nimble, and gave him the ſlip, whilſt I rub'd

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off with a conſiderable Booty; when I found my Maſter again, I in a flouting manner told him he need fear no Danger, for I knew when I ſee him run firſt that Pace wou'd carry it; but he only returned me a volley of Curſes, and bid me avoid Satan, for he wou'd have no more to do with me. I was glad I cou'd ſo eaſily part with him, and finding ſome Brokers and Tally-Men that ſtook at nothing they could have at an undervalued Rate; I reſolv'd to creep into that Miſtery, and make ſome venture their Necks for me as I had often done, and ſo getting hold of the Greaſy Purſe-ſtrings of an old fat Hoſteſs, where I lodg'd for ſome ſecret Service I had done her, borrowing Fifty Pounds on Bond; which I remember I ſtole from her, and Cancel'd when I made her drunk; with that Money and my own Stock I ſet up, firſt at 30 *l. per Cent.* but ſince I advanc'd it to 100 *l.*

*Tally.* I know a great many Tricks as well as you; but tell me how you came to riſe in the World thus haſtily.

*Pawn.* Why I never queſtion'd any Body how they came by the Things, I looked upon that as falſe Heraldry; I uſually Lend but a third Part or half the value at moſt, and my Chaps were ſuch, that I was ſure had no Intention ever to redeem 'em again; them that had, I put the Change upon 'em, and if they ſcrupled it, I had Oaths of my own Coining, and a Stock of Impudence to face them out: Al-

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ways out of Two Beds, Pillows and Bolſters, I got Feathers or Down enough to fill a third for my ſelf, and ſometimes chang'd the whole for that of little value; of an excellent good going Watch I wou'd take out the inſide Work and put in one which was worn out, but with the ſame Name on the Dial. As for Gold Rings I often got the ſame Poſies put upon Princes Mettal, and when once out of my Hands, and the Caſh receiv'd, if they come again to charge me with it, I cry out a Cheat, and threaten'd them with a Conſtable, which makes them go away muttering a few hearty Curſes, which I ſo little valu'd, that I blew them away like a Feather. If *I* found a Novice in the Art of Thieving come to offer to Sell or Pawn, firſt getting the Things, *I* ſecur'd them in my Counter, then took him or her into Examination, whiſpering to my Man ſo loud to fetch a Conſtable, that being eaſily heard, away my Chap run, and the Cargo fell to my ſhare, without paying a Penny for it; for you muſt think *I* did not make an Out-cry of it, unleſs it was now and then a Trifle for Faſhion-ſake, to keep up a ſeeming Reputation of Honeſty. Then *I* had the Thief-Catchers my Penſioners, ſo that my Houſe was never ſearch'd. Once *I* had got above 1000 *l.* in Plate of a Ladys, *I* made a feign to break, and glad ſhe was to compound and take 100 *l.* more than *I* had lent, ſo there *I* got 400 *l.* clear for being out of the

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way a little, and taking my Pleaſure in the Country; with a hundred more Stratagems; but pray lets hear a little of your *Intriguing* in the World.

*Tally.* Why Money *I* lend at 2 *s.* *Intereſt* in the Pound to be paid 2 *s.* Weekly, laying down but 18 *s.* for 20 *s.* but to none but thoſe that are likely to pay me, and can bring ſome Neighbour to juſtifie them, whoſe Name and *Place* of Abode my Man ſets privately down, ſo that upon the leaſt failure, Vinegar my Bumbailiff ſowers them to the ſurprize of the latter, who thinks no harm; theſe draw in others to be Bound, or to Goal they go. *I* have Hats, Shoes, Stockings, Hoods, Scarves, High Topings; all ſorts of Silks and Stuffs, made or unmade, from the Oyſter-Wench to the Tawdry Miſs of the Town: Above 2 *s.* Suits *I* keep to lend on *Saturday* Night for *Sundays* wear, to Orange and Rag wenches, and to be brought home on *Monday* Morning, at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* the Day each; and theſe are ſuch as cannot ſpare Money from buying Brandy or Geneva; and this brings me in about 200 *l.* *per Cent.* ſo that *I* make a ſhift to get a comfortable Living by it.

*Pawn.* And don't they give you the ſlip.

*Tally.* Very rarely, becauſe for ſome *I* have Pledges, for others Security, and half a dozen Bailiffs Dogs abroad to terrifie them; ſo that few of them dare budge for fear my Blood-Hounds ſhould Scent them, who are now hunting

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ing a Town Miſs that has ſhifted from Place to Place to put a Trick upon me for 20 *l.* ſhe took up in Rigging, to draw in an Amorous Keeping-Fool under Age, and ſo can't get his Fortune. How now Vinegar, what have you ſower'd her? How did you take her?

*Bailiff.* Why this ſmutty Devil of a Follower with Chimney-Sweepers Tackle got into a low Room in a Houſe where *I* was inform'd ſhe kept cloſe up two Pair of Stairs; ſo getting up that Funnel he came down another into her Chamber, and taking him for the Devil, ran down Stairs, where *I* Shoulder dab'd her.

*Tally.* Come Huſſy, have you got my Money ready, or to Goal you go?

*Town Miſs.* No indeed—but here comes one will deliver me from your Clutches.—Ah my Dear,—you muſt know *I* ſent for you—

*Keeping Fool.* *I* ſee the Cauſe—What is the Debt? *Miſs.* But 20 *l.* *Keeping Fool.* Here's your Money, what is the Charge?

*Bailiffs.* 5 *l.* for we were a Month about it.

*Keeping Fool.* That's a Lye, but there's four Guineas—Come away my deareſt, [*Exeunt.*

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Tally. *Here Drawer take your Reckoning, let us go,*
*For we have much more Buſineſs yet to do;*
*We* Tally-Men *and* Brokers *ſcarce an Hour*
*Like Satan live, but ſome we do devour.*

FINIS.